

Astrogram

Communication for the Information Technology Age

NASA Ames mourns the loss of STS-107 and her crew



NASA photo by Kennedy Space Center

The STS-107 crew, from left: Mission Specialist David Brown, Commander Rick Husband, Mission Specialists Laurel Clark, Kalpana Chawla and Michael Anderson, Pilot William McCool and Payload Specialist Ilan Ramon.

"All Americans today are thinking... of the families of these men and women who have been given this sudden shock and grief. You're not alone. Our entire nation grieves with you. And those you loved will always have the respect and gratitude of this country."

-- President George W. Bush, Feb. 1, 2003

"They dedicated their lives to pushing scientific challenges for all of us here on Earth. They dedicated themselves to that objective and did it with a happy heart, willingly and with great enthusiasm. We trust the prayers of the Nation will be with them and with their families. A more courageous group of people you could not have hoped to know -- an extraordinary group of astronauts who gave their lives -- and the families of these crewmembers."

-- NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe, Feb. 1, 2003



NASA photo by Roger Brimmer

We've come together today to share our feelings and our grief as well as to celebrate the lives of seven courageous souls who made their ultimate sacrifice in the quest for knowledge and the betterment of all people on this planet.

This family gathering ... is about sharing our feelings with one another. It is about beginning the process of converting our disbelief and anger and sadness and emotional pain into acceptance, learning, growth and rededication.

I was struck Saturday with my deep feelings of sadness and grief coupled to my equally deep feelings of community and kinship for all our NASA family. For the past six months we have been listening to and reading about Mr. O'Keefe's strong sentiments about "One NASA." On Saturday morning I knew, as you knew, he was exactly right – we are one NASA. We must now use the lessons of this tragic event to remind us of that fact and to rededicate ourselves to this unifying principle.

-- Steven Zornetzer, Acting Deputy Director



NASA photo by Dominic Hart



NASA photo by Tom Trower

Excerpts from NASA Ames memory book for JSC family

"Our hearts are bound to yours in our shared grief...We will continue our work with new resolve to honor the memory of those seven."

"One NASA may have been only a slogan when it was introduced. Know that now, One NASA mourns together the loss of our brothers and sisters."

"Heaven weeps their loss so that humanity may celebrate their courage!"

"Seven new stars were added to our universe on Saturday - Thank you for being the brave ones. We'll miss you."

"Even as we mourn your loss, we celebrate your spirit of adventure and promise to keep the flame of discovery burning bright...."



NASA photo by Cesar Acosta

"In memory of those who have seen the Earth from a different view than those of us who can only dream."

"We will miss you, but your spirits will live on in us and in everyone who has the courage to dream and act on it with bravery and determination. You will never be forgotten."

"May we ever remember the past as we create the future."

"The shuttle does not run on liquid hydrogen and oxygen. Passion is the fuel that lifts it into space."

"Singly and together, the stars of the new constellation Columbia will comfort, guide and inspire countless others for years to come."



NASA photo by Tom Trower

*When I must leave you for a little while
Please do not grieve and shed wild tears
And hug your sorrow to you through the years
But start out bravely with a gallant smile;
Reach out your hand in comfort and in cheer
And I in turn will comfort you and hold you near;
And never, never be afraid to die,
For I am waiting for you in the sky!*

-- author unknown

Statement from the Families of Space Shuttle Columbia

On January 16th, we saw our loved ones launch into a brilliant, cloud-free sky. Their hearts were full of enthusiasm, pride in country, faith in their God, and a willingness to accept risk in the pursuit of knowledge -- knowledge that might improve the quality of life for all mankind. Columbia's 16-day mission of scientific discovery was a great success, cut short by mere minutes -- yet it will live on forever in our memories. We want to thank the NASA family and people from around the world for their incredible outpouring of love and support. Although we grieve deeply, as do the families of Apollo 1 and Challenger before us, the bold exploration of space must go on. Once the root cause of this tragedy is found and corrected, the legacy of Columbia must carry on -- for the benefit of our children and yours.



NASA photo by Kennedy Space Center



NASA photo by Kennedy Space Center

High Flight

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of earth
 And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
 Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
 Of sun-split clouds - and done a hundred things
 You have not dreamed of - wheeled and soared and swung
 High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there
 I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
 My eager craft through footless halls of air.
 Up, up the long delirious, burning blue,
 I've topped the windswept heights with easy grace
 Where never lark, or even eagle flew -
 And, while with silent lifting mind I've trod
 The high unsurpassed sanctity of space,
 Put out my hand and touched the face of God.

-- by Pilot Officer Gillespie Magee
 No 412 squadron, RCAF
 Killed Dec. 11, 1941

Where to send condolences

You may post messages of condolence on the spaceflight Web site at: www.spaceflight.nasa.gov or you can send mail to:

Astronaut Office
 NASA Johnson Space Center
 2101 NASA Road One, Code CB
 Houston, TX 77058



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 NASA
 Permit No. G-27



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The Ames Astrogram is an official publication of
 Ames Research Center, National Aeronautics and
 Space Administration.

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